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Jane K. Sulima
647 Welsh Road
Phila. Pa. 19115

August 1, 1988

Ms. Nanci Sinclair
Public Affairs Specialist
EPA Region III
841 Chestnut Street
Phila. Pa. 19107

RE: C&D Recycling

Dear Ms. Sinclair:

I am in receipt of your June 22, 1988 letter.

There is no need for you to continually remind me of the repository at the Freeland Boro Building, as I am fully aware of it's existence. The problem, as you well know, is that I do not reside full time in the Foster area and therefore must either travel 100 miles or go to EPA Region III to review the repository. To further complicate matters, I am expected to request an appointment well in advance to review anything at EPA, plus I do have a physical disability. Since I have not been able to review the repository, to date, I do appreciate receiving the "major reports". However, I am aware that AT&T and EPA signed an Amended Administrative Consent Order regarding a Cable Casing Removal Plan. I am also aware that this matter has been given radio and newspaper coverage. Therefore, I am requesting an explanation as to why these documents plus the #3 Monthly Status Report were not forwarded to me. Your claim that I especially have been kept informed, to be generous, is erroneous.

I recently requested Mr. Draper to arrange an appointment for my review of the repository in it's entirety, when he returns from his vacation.

Yes, I did submit a 55 question and comment letter which was answered extensively but, unfortunately, inadequately. Yes, there was a phone call initiated by EPA through which concerns were supposedly addressed - some satisfactorily, some not. Several concerns remain totally ignored. The basic thrust of this call to me appeared to be due to my engineer's letter and agitation because I addressed my concerns to Senator Heinz. The lack of quality feedback from EPA only serves to strengthen my belief that Senator Heinz's continued oversight is, unfortunately, indispensable.

I apologize for being so dim-witted as to think EPA would prefer and possibly suggest that an "organized group" would do well to hold their meetings with public officials in an environment beneficial to all the residents. To make my point perfectly clear, there are other home owners who, for various reasons, have either not been invited to or would not attend those meetings which were held in a private home.

I've received inquiries from some people as to why meetings, discussions, plans and accomplishments are virtually not opened to the public. These questions are naturally directed to me as I have been heavily involved with the C&D issue since 1980 and was also the one who originally contacted DER and EPA about possible water contamination in 1984. I cannot and would not even attempt to explain a private group's mode of operation but I will not apologize for attempting to: 1. keep the residents informed, 2. keep them involved and 3. work to ensure a proper, effective clean-up of the neighborhood as well as the site itself. Although the Foster property is our second home, our family has heavily utilized it for over twenty-five years and feel we have just as much right to input and question EPA as any of the full time residents - especially since C&D is our next door neighbor.

I do want to know: 1. Are minutes of these meetings being entered into the repository? 2. Are decisions at these private meetings setting precedence and becoming memorialized in document without full public input or knowledge? Timely input from

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the public, in anticipation of publication of any report, is not only desirable but imperative. We don't want to be stuck with precedents set behind closed doors, especially when EPA is contributing to these decisions.

GAO and OTA have well documented some of EPA's past failures and wasting of billions of dollars at Superfund Sites. I presume you are aware of this. And let's not forget the Butler Mine Tunnel fiasco.

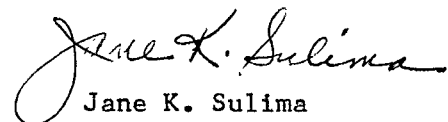
Perhaps it's time for EPA to change it's policy and get it into print regarding meetings held in private homes with EPA by "organized groups"; especially when work plan changes are discussed. Limited attendance limits EPA's ability to garner information, some of which could prove to be very valuable to EPA's investigatory and clean-up procedures. Controlled attendance also minimizes community participation, knowledge and rights.

As long as you've been in EPA's employ, you must be aware that much pertinent information is exposed just by conversing with and questioning local people. You must also know that many people do not have the time or the inclination to put their thoughts, knowledge, or questions in writing. Additionally, you must be aware that people, in general, get overwhelmed by voluminous paperwork such as is in the repository and don't always have the time to continually search out data and information. Then again, some people's credulity knows no bounds.

During the Preliminary Investigation (or HRS) of C&D EPA inquired as to whether a meeting with some "knowledgeable citizens" could be held in my Foster home. I accommodated EPA and invited as many "knowledgeable citizens" as could be comfortably seated. Although EPA was surprised by the turn out, I felt more information could've possibly been extracted if more people could've been involved. Therefore, your opening and closing statements "...Agency does not hold...community meetings in anyone's private home. We do not ask or tell citizens...when or where to hold...meetings, nor do we suggest who...invite" only serve to raise questions as to the credibility and changeability of EPA's policies for the sake of convenience and arguability.

Hopefully, in the future, EPA will improve it's ways to gather in and consider the viewpoints and concerns in the community.

Sincerely,


Jane K. Sulima

CC: Donna McCartney
Janet Vinesky
William Draper
James Voltaggio
James Seif
Lee Thomas
M. Brown
Congressman Paul Kanjorski
Senator John Heinz

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